

Background Knowledge



Becoming a World Power, 1872–1917

SA/A/D/SD Continuum Before reading about the United States becoming a world power, think about your reactions to each of the following statements. The statements are intended to cause a reaction because some people may have strong feelings about them. Think about what you already know about the rise of the United States as a world power. Select “SA” (Strongly Agree), “A” (Agree), “D” (Disagree), or “SD” (Strongly Disagree) for each statement. There are no right or wrong answers.

1. The United States must establish military bases overseas to protect its national interests.

SA-----A-----D-----SD

2. The increased influence of the United States in the Pacific and Latin America was good for those regions.

SA-----A-----D-----SD

3. The United States should not have become involved in the Spanish-American War.

SA-----A-----D-----SD

4. Under no circumstances should one nation rule another without the consent of its people.

SA-----A-----D-----SD

5. All nations should be free to trade openly with all other nations.

SA-----A-----D-----SD

6. The United States should intervene in other nation’s affairs when necessary to maintain economic and political stability in the Western Hemisphere.

SA-----A-----D-----SD

7. The United States should not try to promote stable, democratic foreign governments with force.

SA-----A-----D-----SD

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Activating Background Knowledge

Write several sentences about what you know about how the United States became a world power, including the reasons the United States became more involved in world affairs and the effects of its involvement.

Background Knowledge *Cont.*

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